



**The Washtenaw Wanderers and Illinois Gateway Milers Welcome You To
Walk Fox Ridge State Park
As Part Of The 2026 Mid-America Regional Conference
June 17th, 2026 Through June 24th, 2026**

This is a walk within Fox Ridge State Park located fifteen minutes from downtown Charleston IL. The heavily treed and rustic park is bounded on one side by the Embarras River. There is no entry fee for the park and an area for campers (modest fee). The park has picnic shelters, play grounds, a lake. Our AVA walks begin and end at the "Brick Shelter", constructed in the 1930's by the CCC. Most of the walks are on the two paved park roads with short ventures onto the moderate ability dirt trails. The park is surprisingly hilly for Illinois.

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Walk Registration

Registration takes place online using the AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Starting-Finish-Parking Location:

The start point is the **Brick Shelter, located on left fork park road within Fox Ridge State Park**. There are road signs within the park with shelter names. There is plenty of parking near the Brick Shelter.

The Brick Shelter Start point is at Latitude: **39.400039** Longitude: **-88.15284**

Walk **8:00 AM to Dusk - 17 June 2026 through 24 June 2026** - Use the Online Start Box to register.

On Saturday - **20 June 2026 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM ONLY**, there will be representatives from the sponsoring clubs in the Brick Shelter who have an old-fashioned stamp for your books.

Restrooms:

There are restrooms at the Brick Shelter.

Assistance:

Event Related Assistance: Rob Weaver 616-745-9627

Emergency: Dial 911

Fox Ridge State Park

AVA 5k Directions

This map and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited. If you have a question about the instructions, call Rob Weaver at 616-745-9627.



In case of emergency, please call 911.

Special Programs:

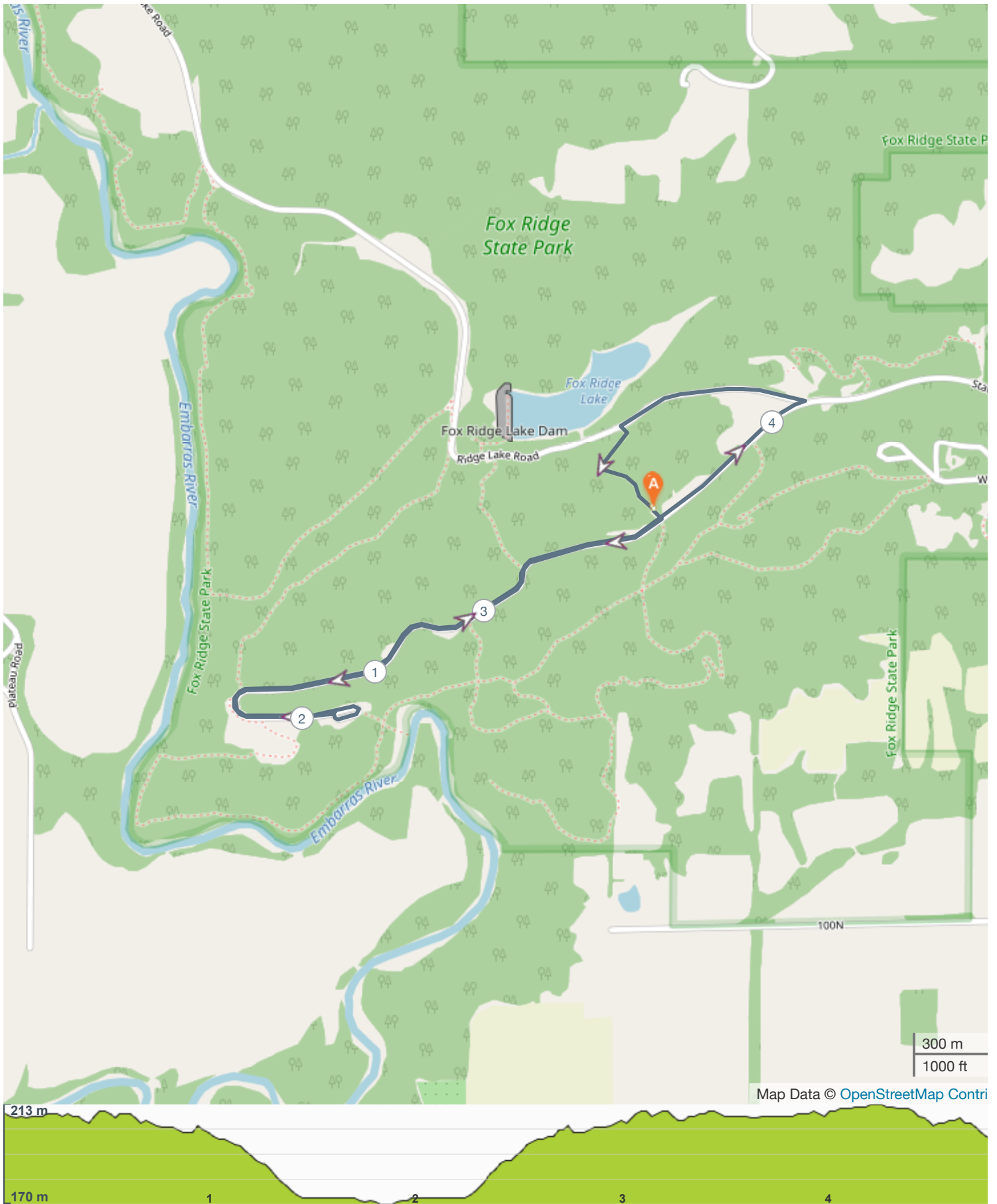
Anniversaries Hurrah

1. From the Brick Shelter - Start on the paved road next to the shelter.
2. With shelter to your back, Turn **RIGHT** and follow the paved road. *Note: when on all paved roads in the park walk on the left side of the road, if vehicle appears walk on the shoulder when possible. Speed limit is low in the park.*
3. Follow the paved road for about a kilometer, the road goes down a big hill, around a 180 degree bend and ends at a circular parking lot.
4. Upon reaching the end of the paved road turn around, reverse direction and walk back up the hill to the Brick Shelter on the same road.
5. Stay on the road past the brick shelter until you come to a fork intersection with another paved road, named Ridge Lake Road.
6. **LEFT** on Ridge Lake Road. Walk about 500 meters on this road.
7. You will come to a dirt trail on the left of the road. This trail is named "Family Trail". There is a small sign.
8. Follow the Family Trail into the woods.
9. The trail will soon come to a trail junction (unmarked).
10. At the junction, take the trail to the left (important to go left or you'll be off into the boonies.)
11. On the trail, you will walk down into a ravine and then walk up the other side (steep but short). At the top of the ravine you will see a playground.
12. Walk across the playground and you will arrive at the Brick Shelter where you began (the end point).



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Fox Ridge State Park 5km Map



Fox Ridge State Park

AVA 10k Directions

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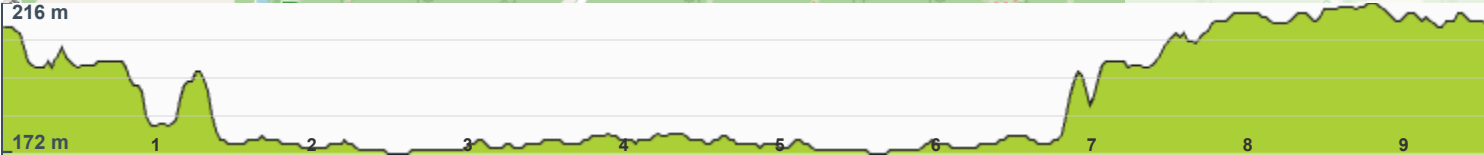
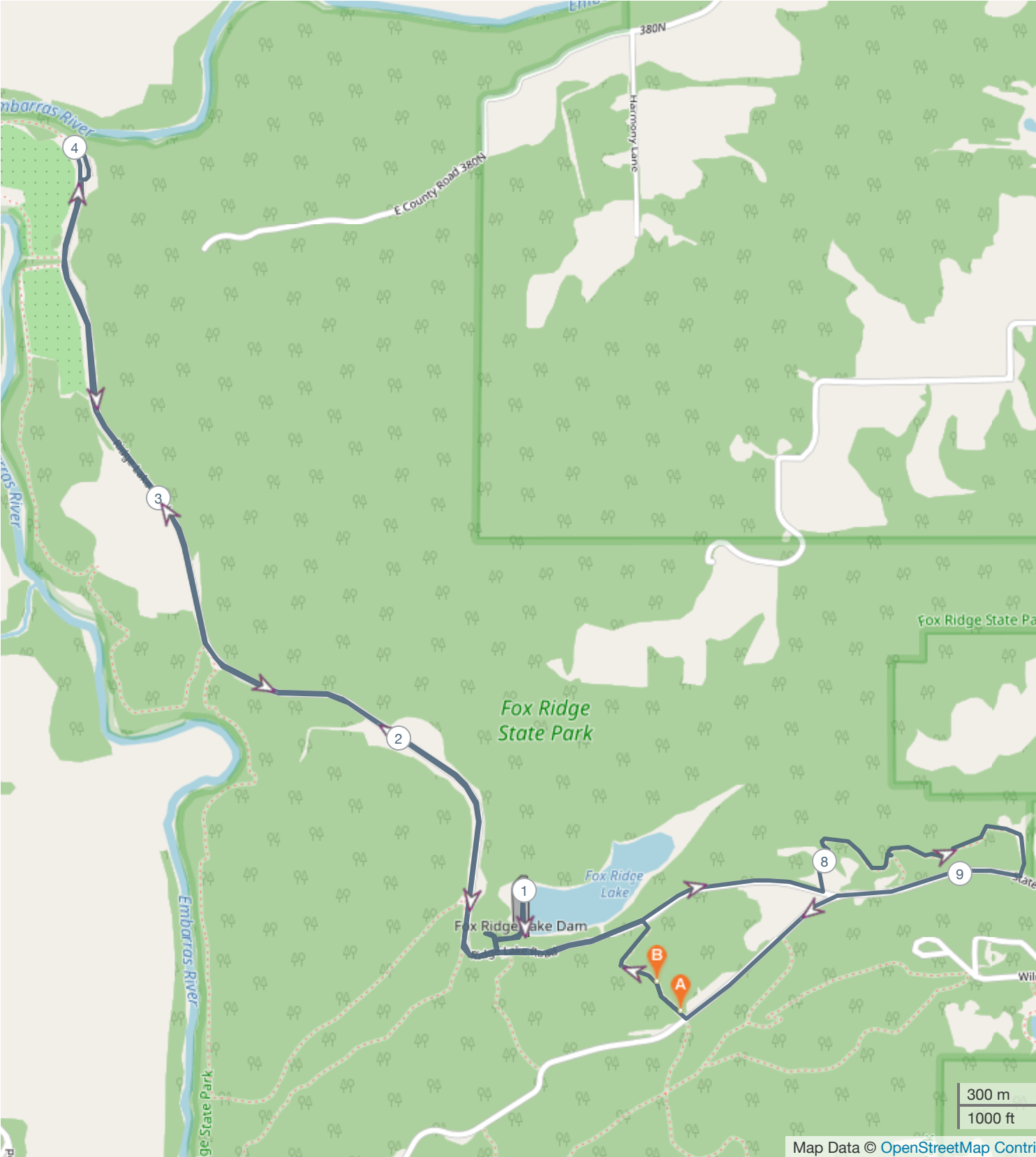
Anniversaries Hurrah

1. Behind the Brick Shelter walk across the playground to the edge of the woods. Look for the dirt trail named The Family Trail (there may not be a sign).
2. Follow the trail into the woods and down a ravine. At the bottom of the ravine the trail goes left and right. Take the trail to the right. Shortly you will come to a paved road named Ridge Lake Road. Turn left onto the paved road. *Note: when on all paved roads in the park walk on the left side of the road, if vehicle appears walk on the shoulder when possible. Speed limit is low in the park.*
3. Follow Ridge Lake Road. Walk a short distance and before the big curve to the right you will see a dirt trail on the right side of the road, There may be a wooden road barrier across the dirt trail.
4. (Optional) If you want to see Fox Ridge Lake take the dirt trail to the right and past the barrier. The short trail goes down a hill to the edge of the dam. Walk out on the dirt dam, take photos of the lake, and return the way you came to the paved road.
9. Follow Ridge Lake Road around a bend and down a long hill. After descending the hill keep walking on the road until it dead ends (where dirt River Trail begins).
10. Turn around and return on the road back up the hill the way you came until you see volleyball courts on the left.
11. Enter the volleyball area also known as Possum Holler. Look for the entrance to the Fitness Trail. Go to the right and follow the Fitness Trail (has fitness stations along the way).
12. The Fitness Trail exits into a parking lot area, turn right onto the dirt driveway, then right onto the paved road.
13. Follow the paved road (Ridge Lake Road), at the fork, go left on another paved road. Follow the road to the Brick Shelter (Pavilion). There are road signs.
14. Enter the sidewalk and walk to the Brick Shelter (end point).



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Fox Ridge State Park 10km Map



After Walking Fox Ridge State Park

Be sure to log back into <http://my.ava.org> > my account > finish table to log your walk as completed.

Fox Ridge State Park is only about fifteen minutes from downtown Charleston, IL. Restaurants near Charleston: <https://www.opentable.com/nearby/restaurants-near-me-charleston-il>



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